

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 VO-03 SCA-01 PM-03 INSE-00 SR-02

ORM-01 L-03 H-02 AID-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/058 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN;LMPETERS:FMLC

APPROVED BY IATF:JTAFT

SCA/VO:JARIAS

PM/ISO:COL.FLEMINGS (BY PHONE)

INS:MIGIBSON (BY PHONE)

EA/VN:OABARTLEY

IATF:AANTIPPAS

S/S-O:MTANNER

----- 111579

R 291803Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

UNCLAS STATE 124975

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT:TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION FOR VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS
OF PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED ABROAD

1. DEPT. OF STATE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES RECENTLY ABOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION FOR VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL BEING REASSIGNED ABROAD. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHOULD BE DISSEMINATED AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE FOR USE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL COUNSELORS, PASSPORT OFFICIALS, ETC.

2. PASSPORTS ISSUED BY FORMER GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WILL BE OF LIMITED VALUE FOR TRAVEL PURPOSES, SINCE THEIR VALIDITY FOR TRAVEL ABROAD IS DETERMINED BY
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THE WILLINGNESS OF THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT THEM. AS MORE AND MORE NATIONS RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME

IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO CEASE RECOGNIZING PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE FORMER VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON WILL EXTEND OR HONOR PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT.

3. VIETNAMESE NATIONALS SHOULD, HOWEVER, RETAIN EVEN EXPIRED VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS FOR THEIR POSSIBLE UTILITY

AS AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT IN AN APPLICATION FOR US CITIZENSHIP OR FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS.

4. DEPENDENTS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED ABROAD WHO HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS MAY APPLY FOR REENTRY PERMITS AT THE NEAREST DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS). THESE DOCUMENTS MUST BE APPLIED FOR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM THE US AND HAVE A MAXIMUM VALIDITY OF TWO YEARS. (THEY ARE INITIALLY VALID FOR ONE YEAR BUT MAY BE EXTENDED FOR A SECOND YEAR BY A US IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL OR CONSULAR OFFICER ABROAD.) THE REENTRY PERMIT, WHICH IS A BOOKLET SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO A PASSPORT AND CONTAINS SPACE FOR VISAS AND ENTRY AND EXIT STAMPS, IS ACCEPTABLE FOR TRAVEL TO MOST FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

5. VIETNAMESE NATIONALS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE US AS REFUGEES AND HAVE ONLY PAROLEE STATUS IN THE US MAY BE ISSUED TEMPORARY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BY THE INS. WE CANNOT ASSURE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH SUBSTITUTES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. UNLESS ASSURANCES CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS AT THE BASE OF ASSIGNMENT THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE AND THAT NO DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE FORESEEN WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS IN PAROLEE STATUS NOT DEPART US.

6. PERSONNEL WHOSE DEPENDENTS HAVE ENTERED AS REFUGEES AND HAVE ONLY PAROLEE STATUS IN THE US SHOULD ASSIST THOSE DEPENDENTS TO APPLY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO
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PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN AT THE NEAREST DISTRICT OFFICE OF INS. SUCH ADJUSTMENTS CAN OCCUR ONLY IF THE DEPENDENT IS RESIDING IN THE US. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-1109
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975058/aaaaahby.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAVEL DOCUMENTATION FOR VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS OF PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED ABROAD
TAGS: SREF, VS
To: DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006